

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, OCON

SUBJECT: UNESCO: EXBD RECOMMENDATION TO POSTPONE DRAFT
DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE

REF: A) PARIS 28564, B) STATE 243707

1. EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES INCLUDING USSR, BULGARIA, GDR, AND YUGOSLAVIA AS WELL AS CUBA, TOWED COMMON LINE IN INTERVENTIONS DURING SEPT 28 PLENARY, THAT DRAFT DECLARATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO GEN CONF FOR ACTION WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION. SOVIET DEL POINTED OUT THAT EVEN IF GEN CONF UNABLE ARRIVE AT DECISION, A DISCUSSION OF ISSUE BEFORE ALL MEMBERS OF UNESCO WOULD BE WORTHWHILE.

2. BLOC ATTITUDES CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH NEARLY ALL OTHER EXBD MEMBERS WHOSE INTERVENTIONS ECHOED DG'S INTRODUCTION THAT ISSUE MUCH TOO IMPORTANT, TOO FUNDAMENTAL TO DEAL WITH USING CATCH WORDS AND SLOGANS. HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A DECLARATION DESERVED BETTER STUDY AND FORMULATION, ESPECIALLY ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM RACISM, AND CALLED UPON ALL MEMBERS TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON THIS "DELICATE" MATTER. BOISSIER-

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PALUN, REPRESENTING BENIN, IN FACT COUNTERED DIRECTLY

BULGARIAN DEL'S CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION ON DECLARATION, GOING SO FAR TO NOTE THAT RACISM IS BEGINNING TO LEAD TO "COUNTER RACISM," AND THAT GIVEN COMPLEXITY OF ISSUE, "WE" HAVE BEEN LED BACK TO MIDDLE OF ROAD POSITION WHICH IS PLAYING GAME BY THE RULES. BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES SEEM CLEARLY IN LINE WITH DG AND PALUN'S INTERVENTION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE ISSUE.

3. SYRIA, JORDAN, IRAN, AND ALGERIA ALSO SPOKE IN FAVOR OF POSTPONEMENT OF DECISION ON DRAFT DECLARATION PENDING FURTHER STUDY AFTER GEN CONF, ALONG LINES EXPRESSED BY DG. EGYPTIAN DEL WENT ALONG MORE RELUCTANTLY. HE SAID HE BELIEVED DEFERMENT WAS PROPOSED BASICALLY FOR POLITICAL REASONS, BUT THAT HE WOULD CONCUR IF EXBD CONSIDERED THIS NECESSARY.

4. WEO'S, PHILIPPINES AND NEPAL, AND LATIN AMERICANS ALL SPOKE IN FAVOR OF POSTPONEMENT. PRC DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE.

5. COMMENT: CLEAR CONSENSUS OF SECRETARIAT AND EXBD (REPORTED REFTEL A) IS TO POSTPONE ACTION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE ISSUE UNTIL AFTER GEN CONF. SOVIETS AND OTHER BLOC COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TRY TO FIND WAY TO BRING ISSUE TO A DEBATE INVOLVING ALL MEMBERS AT GEN CONF.
RUSH

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